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Ex-CIA man gets 17-to-53-year term

Reuter

NEW YORK - A former agent of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) who was a major weapons supplier to Libya and Uganda was sentenced yesterday in his absence to serve up to 53 years in jail for selling 10,000 machine guns to undercover New York police.

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Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Thomas Galligan sentenced Frank Terpil. 40, the ex-ClA exployee, and an associate, George Gregory Korkala, 38, to jail terms of from 17 and 53 years. They were convicted of selling the guns and 10 million rounds of ammunition to undercover police posing as Caribbean revolutionaries in a 1979 deal struck in a New York hotel room.

Manhattan Dist. Atty. Robert Morgenthau

Manhattan Dist. Atty. Robert Morgenthau said Terpil now was believed to be hiding in Lib-ya and Korkala in Lebanon. The pair fied last. September, forfeiting 100,000 dollars bail each. Terpil has been described by US officials as one of the world's major suppliers of weapons to repressive governments.

According to documents seized at the time of Uganda dictator ldt Amin's downfall, Terpil sold him \$3.2 million worth of weapons, explosives and torture devices and helped train Ugandangovernment "murder squads."

He also once boasted that he ran a school for terrorists in Libya and provided Libyan leader Muammar Gaddaft's government with an estimated \$2.5 million in weapons.